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An

Inaugural Essay

On

The use of Tobacco in Breachbrecks

by

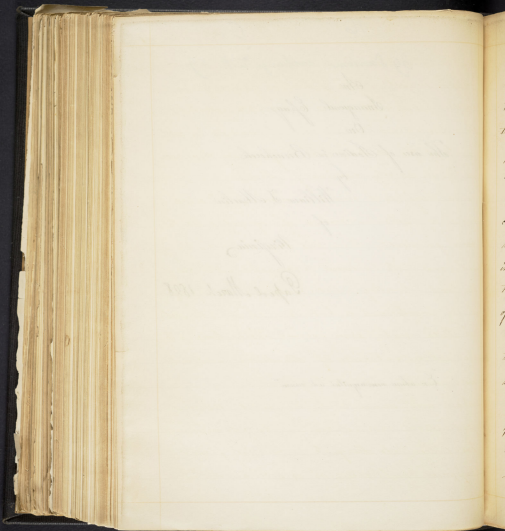
William J. Macklin

of

Virginia,

Printed March 1828

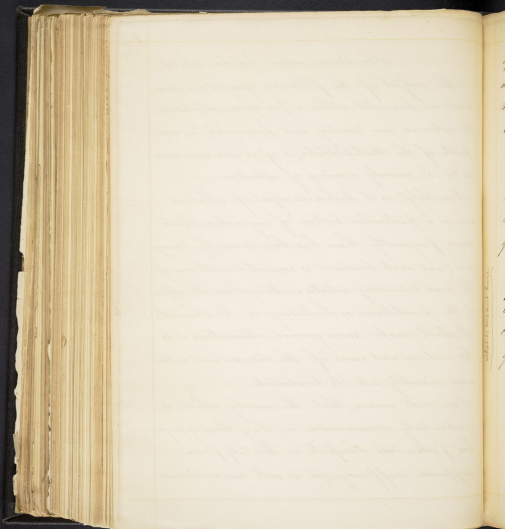
"Ex abusu consuetudinis ad usum"



1
The disease, which has been selected
as the subject of the following essay, is one, whose
treatment has, until within a few years, solicited lit-
tle notice in our country, and fortunately in most
parts of the United States, is of so rare occurrence
as to be scarcely deserving of attention.

Nevertheless, as it becomes an object of Medical-
care in a particular section of any nation, it has
more frequently than has been generally imag-
ined (and as its treatment is connected with one of
the most interesting articles contained in the office
of the practitioner or Laboratory of the Chemist)
I shall make some general observations as to
the nature and cause of the disease, and enter
more minutely into its treatment.

I am well aware, that the remedy which is
particularly recommended in the following pages
has fallen into dispute in this City from
supposed inefficacy, yet so well am convinced



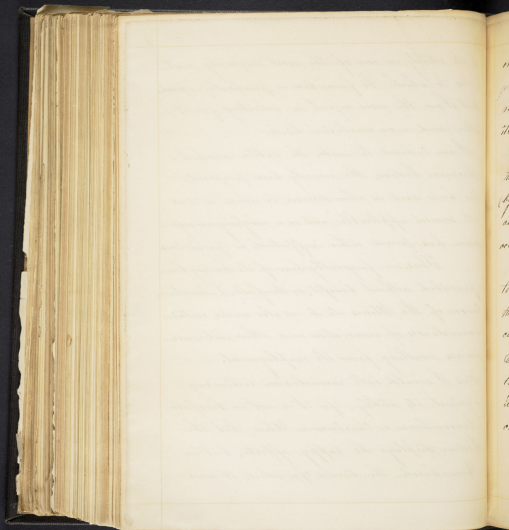
of its utility in one of the most ungainly mal-
 a dise to which the female sex is particularly exposed,
 that I am the more urgent in soliciting for it—
 other and more conclusive trials.

I am induced to make the latter remark—
 because Iodine, the remedy here proposed,
 has been used in other diseases, to which it has
 not seemed applicable, and as a necessary consequen-
 quence has proved either ineffectual or pernicious.

Thus, we frequently hear of its having been
 prescribed without benefit, in Scrophulous, Leucorrhoea,
Cancer of the Uterus &c. &c. as also under certain
 circumstances of emaciation and other evil conse-
 quences resulting from its employment.

This I would call inconclusive testimony—
 against its utility, for it is not in Scrophulous
Leucorrhoea or Carcinoma Uteri that the
 Iodine displays its happy effects, but in—
Bronchitis, the disease for which it was—

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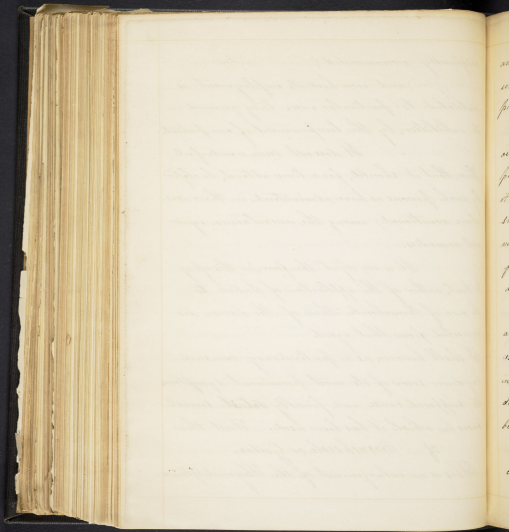
originally recommended (but to which it is
justly objected) and even here its employment is
restricted to particular cases being governed in
its exhibition, by the temperament of our patient.

It does not seem wonderful
then, that it should, for a time at least, be adopted
(by such persons as have administered in the cases
above mentioned) among the uncertain or equiv-
ocal remedies. —

It is my object therefore, in this essay
to treat, rather of the application of Iodine, to
the cure of Bronchitis, than of the disease dis-
connected from that agent.

I shall however, as a preliminary measure —
lay down some of its most prominent symptoms
its supposed cause, and finally detail several
cases in which it has been used. — First, then
of — Bronchitis or Croup.

This is an enlargement of the Thyroid Gland

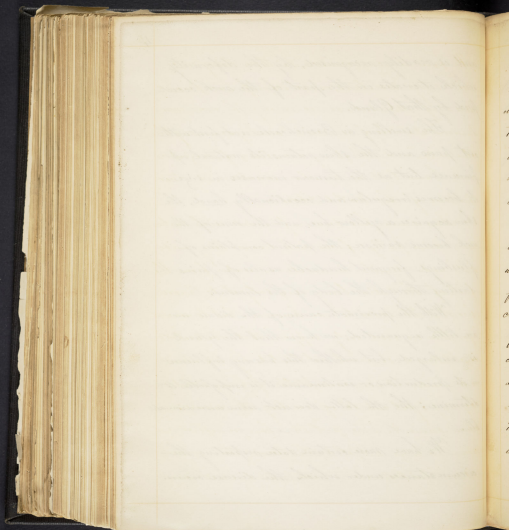


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and is readily recognised, by the deformity which it creates in the part of the neck occupied by that Gland.

The swelling in Bronchocoele is at first without pain and the skin retains its natural appearance but as the tumour increases in size - it becomes irregular and occasionally hard, the skin acquires a yellow hue, and the veins of the neck become varicose; the patient complains of flushings, frequent headaches as also of pains - darting through the body of the tumour.

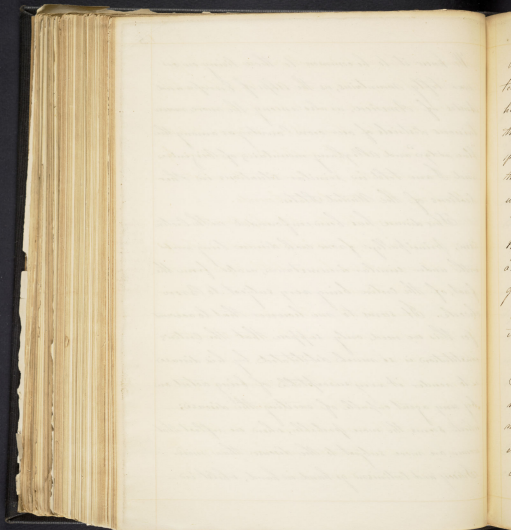
With the proximate cause of the disease we are little acquainted; we know that the Gland is enlarged, but whether this has any influence in its production or continuance it is impossible to determine; the latter does not seem unreason-
able.

We have more certain data respecting the circumstances under which the disease occurs.



We know it to be common to those living on our
 more lofty mountains, as the Alps of Europe and
 Andes of America, as also among the more moun-
 tainous districts of our own Country as among the
 "blue ridge" and Alleghany mountains of Virginia
 and I am told in similar situations in other
 sections of the United States.

This disease has been confounded with Ertia-
 ism, principally from each disease being met
 with under similar circumstances, as also from the
 fact, of the Ertia being very subject to Brown
 chorde. It seems to me however that to account
 for this we need only suppose that the Ertia's
 constitution is so much debilitated by his disease
 as to render it very susceptible of being acted on
 by any agent capable of exciting the disease; -
 which seems the more probable, when we reflect that
 women are more subject to the disease than men. ^{not} ~~Ertia~~
 Scurvy and Ertiaism go hand in hand, whilst in -



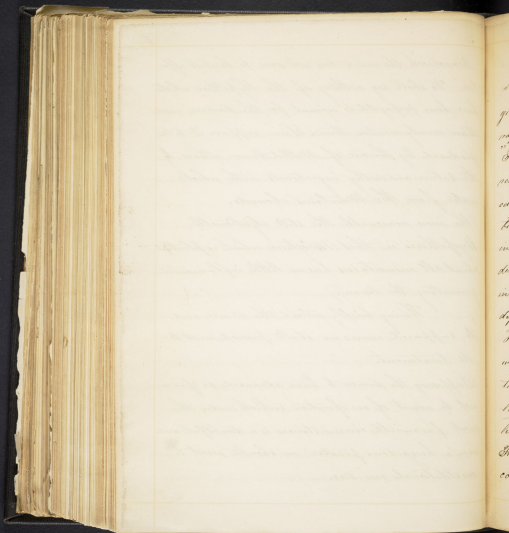
Bronchitis the mind does not seem to be at all affected. We shall say nothing of the Hypothesis which have been propagated to account for the disease more than merely mention them. Some suppose it to be produced by the use of Malted Snow - others by the saline and earthy ingredients with which water from the Mountains abounds.

The more reasonable the still objectionable Hypothesis is - that Moisture which is plentiful about all mountains has no little influence in generating the disease.

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Having briefly noticed the disease and its supposed causes we shall proceed next to its treatment.

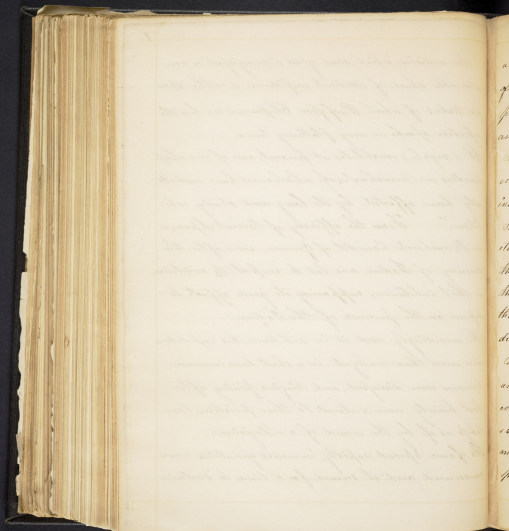
Supposing the disease to have advanced so far as not to admit of an operation, (which under the most favourable circumstances is a doubtful and even a hazardous practice) we should resort to constitutional remedies. —



The medicine which some years since enjoyed a considerable share of Medical confidence was the Spanish Water; of which Professor Choppeaux in his theophrastus speaks in very flattering terms.

"It (says he) constitutes at present, one of our chief remedies in Bronchitis, of which cure has undoubtedly been effected by its long and steady exhibition." Form the efficacy of Burnt Sponges in Bronchitis. Caisinet of Geneva, soon after the discovery of Iodine was led to suspect its existence in that substance, supposing its good effects to depend on the presence of the Iodine.

He accordingly used it in substance, his expectations were more than realized - in a short time immense tumours were dissolved, and ladies springing after lost beauty, were restored to their pristine looks as if by the wand of a Magician. The same spread rapidly, immense quantities were consumed, and it seemed for a time to sustain

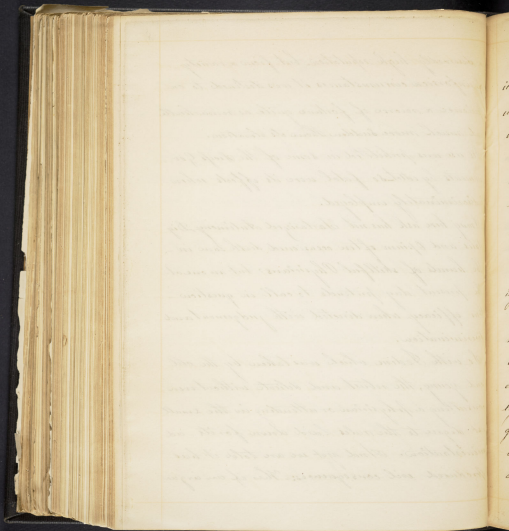


a deservedly high reputation, but from a variety of unforeseen circumstances it was destined to experience a reverse of fortune quite as remarkable, and much more sudden than its elevation.

Its use was prohibited in some of the Swiss Governments by edicts so fatal were its effects when indiscriminately employed.

Amay here ask has not Tartarized Antimony, Digstals and Opium often occasioned death have in the hands of skillful Physicians; but no one at the present day pretends to call in question their efficacy when directed with judgement and discrimination.

So with Iodine which was taken by the old and young, the robust and delicate without even consulting a physician or attending in the smallest degree to the rules laid down for its administration. And yet we are told it has produced evil consequences; - This if an argu-

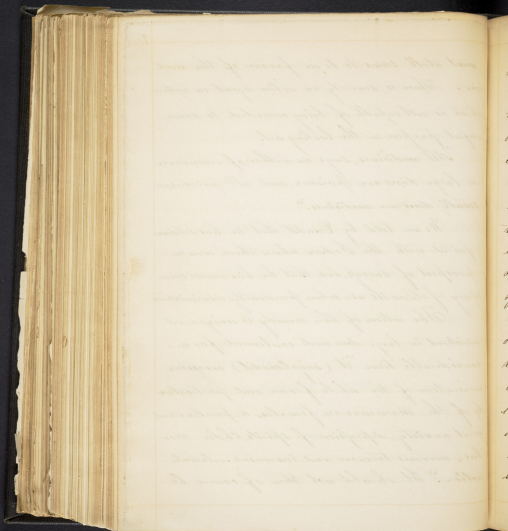


most still seems to be in favour of the medicine. There is scarcely an active agent in nature which is not capable of being converted to some useful purpose in the healing art.

"All medicines, says an author of eminence, in large doses are poisons, and all poisons, in small doses are medicines."

We are told by Coindet that he has seldom failed with the Iodine where there was a prospect of success, and that he has never seen injury follow its use when prudently administered.

The action of this remedy is unique, administered in large doses and continued for a considerable time "it (says Coindet) occasions evacuation of the whole frame and particularly of the mammae in females, a peculiar and great anxiety, depression of spirits, Chorea Morbus, nervous tremors and increased arterial action." It should not then of course be



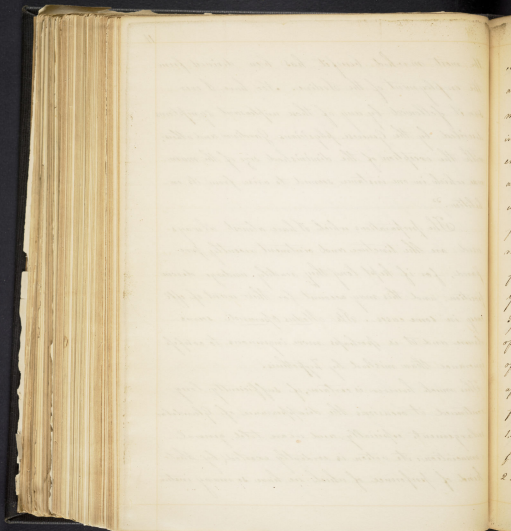
gives the promise of a more or delicate habit.

My former preceptor, Dr. Daugleau, says he has used it frequently and has never but once, seen it followed by any unpleasant consequences; I am well convinced that they have occurred to others, not to him self perhaps from prudence in its administration. In a letter which I received some short time since, he narrated several cases which occurred in his practice at the University of Virginia and which I shall subjoin to this essay. Speaking of the Iodine he observes, I may remark to you that in our disease especially, the efficacy of the effe-
 ray of the Iodine, seems to be as well established as that of any therapeutical agent whatever. Since I came to this country I have had several cases of Soft Bronchitis some of an extraordinary size and in all

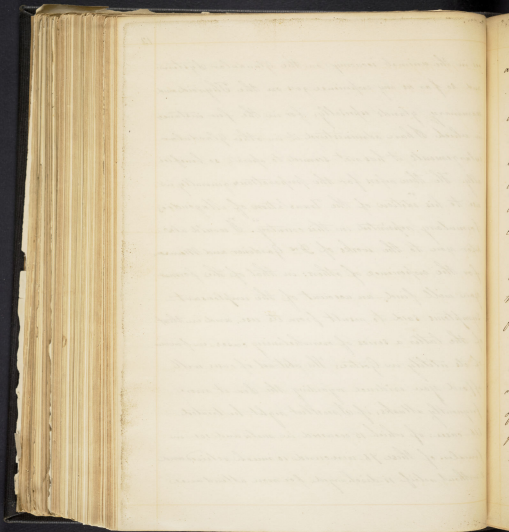
the most marked benefit has been derived from the employment of the Sedine. Nor have I ever seen it followed by any of those unpleasant symptoms described by the Geneva physicians Gardener and others, with the exception of the diminished size of the mammae which in one instance seemed to arise from its exhibition.²⁰

The preparations which I have almost always used are the tincture and ointment recently prepared, for if kept long they readily undergo decomposition, and this may account for their want of efficacy in some cases. Its *Modus Operandi* seems obscure and it is perhaps more ingenious to confess ignorance than misled by Hypothesis.

Thus much however is certain, if sufficiently long continued it occasions the disappearance of Glandular enlargements, especially, and in an total, general - emaciation: its action is evidently exerted by that kind of perfumery of which we have so many instan-



use in the animal economy; on the Glandular System;
 and so far as my experience goes on the Thyroid and
 mammary glands especially: for in the few instances
 in which I have administered it in other Glandular
 enlargements it has not seemed to operate so benefi-
 cially. He then refers for the preparations generally in
 use to his "edition of the Translation of Magendie's
 formulae, republished in this country." I would also
 refer you to the works of Drs Gardiner and Munn
 for the experience of others: in that of the former
 you will find an account of the unpleasant
 symptoms said to result from its use, and in that
 of the latter a series of remarkable cases in favour
 of its utility in Goitres. The abstract of cases will
 afford you evidence regarding the Sex it more
 frequently attacks, if I recollect right he treated
 116 cases, of which 15 occurred in males and 101 in
 females, of these 76 were cured, 10 much relieved and
 2 without relief, 11 discharged for non attendance.



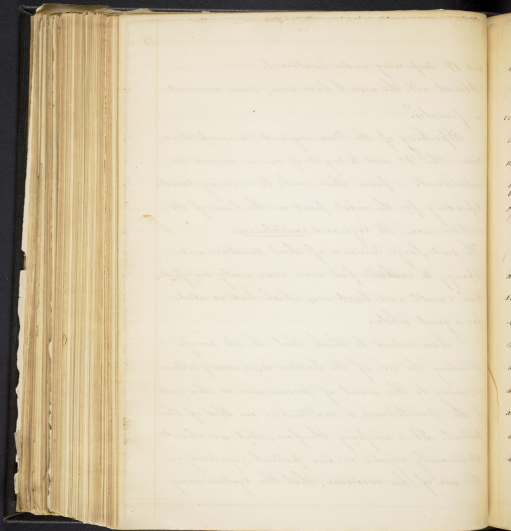
and 17 improving under treatment.

"Almost all the cases I have seen, have occurred in females."

Speaking of the time required to complete a cure the Dr used to say it of course varied in individuals - from three weeks to as many months depending for the most part on the time of its continuance - its size and consistence.

He said, large tumours of short duration and - Spongy, or ~~cellular~~ ^{cellular} were more easily dissolved, than small and hard ones, which had existed for a great while.

I am inclined to think that the ill success attending the use of the Iodine is, in many instances, owing to the want of perseverance on the part of the practitioner, or inattention on that of the patient. It is necessary therefore, that we should strenuously enjoin on our patient regularity in the use of his medicine, that the system may



be put completely under its influence.

Before administering the Iodine, we should procure evacuations, either cathartics or emetics or both.

It seems to me that emetics should be prohibited as they undoubtedly awaken the susceptibility of the Stomach more than any other class of medicines.

Dr Richard Pittel of Virginia suggested to me (while studying with him during the last summer) another application of emetics in this disease - viz - if the Iodine had been carried too far, he thought it probable that an emetic would have an effect somewhat similar to that which it exercises over profuse salivation. He says he has very seldom failed arresting salivation by an emetic of Spesschuam bar - and thinks they would prove equally beneficial in the case just alluded to. - Condit - says - should nervous symptoms arise -

we are to resort to the antispasmodics, as Opium, extract of Ammonia, Valerian, spigelia &c. &c. as ~~advised~~ the patient should be put on a milk diet and discontinue the medicine or only apply it external ly. The preparations of the Iodine which Dr. Dunglison used were those first recommended by Carindet. The Tincture is made by dissolving gr. ℥. viii. of Iodine in ℥j. of Alcohol. of this - the Dose is ~~gr.~~ gradually increased to xx. three times per day. The ointment was made in the proportions of Iodine gr. xxx. to Lard Purified ℥j. - A piece the size of a nutmeg to be rubbed over the tumour night and morning.

An ointment of the Hydrate of Potash as also a tincture of the same article have been used. I know nothing their utility from my own observation having never seen them employed.

I have concluded now all I have to say.

on this subject. I feel sensibly the deficiency of order and method in this composition (originating in part from the novelty of the subject), yet I submit it cheerfully to the Faculty believing as I do, that they will readily overlook such inaccuracies as have been unavoidable.

I will now subjoin the cases to which I had recourse without altering name or phrase.

First Case.

A negro woman from the county of Allamakee named Sally - Aged 25 - has had the disease six years - the tumour was the size of the two first yielding - on pressure when she commenced with the Treatment in dose of grt & gradually increasing it to ʒ.ʒ. In two or three weeks the tumour became slightly painful and indurated, this pain gradually subsided - in a few more days it became flaccid and in about six weeks -

entirely disappeared.

Second Case

Mrs Wade from the county of Buckingham—
 aged 31 of good constitution and full habit—has
 had the disease ever since she was about 19—
 She has never experienced any pain from the
 tumour; it commenced on one side and gradually
 extended over the whole front of the neck. —
 This tumour also was soft—when the Iodine was
 commenced, it became a little painful (as she
 supposed from friction with the ointment) she
 had also slight headache in the morning—but
 reducing the dose from grt x x v. to grt x. and
 directing a saline cathartic—her head was relieved
 as also the pain in the tumour. — She continued
 the Iodine internally and externally for
 six weeks without deriving any benefit—she
 was directed to spread some of the ointment
 on linen and ~~apply~~ keep it constantly applied.

the tumour became flaccid in about two days - and in about three months from the time the medicine was first administered Mrs Wade was perfectly cured.

Third Case

Dianna a negro woman from Rockingham age not known appeared to be about 50 - has a considerable tumour principally on the right side - said she did not know how long she had had the disease - it had given her some pain particularly in rainy weather. Her general health was good - she commenced with the Tonic in grt & v. gradually increased to twenty five three times per day. It was deemed imprudent to carry it beyond this as the Mammæ - naturally flaccid suffered a sensible diminution. She was advised

by the medicine the not cured she became impatient and it is thought ought to be taking it.

William J. Morlin.

